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Message Text

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53
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 (ADP) R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:WGMETSON/PTLINCOLN,JR.:EBS
8/13/73, EXT. 22657
APPROVED BY EA/PRCM -OVARMSTRONG
---------- 093455
R 151320Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, CH
SUBJECT: STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TRADE MISSION

1. RONALD E. MCCOWEN OF NORTH CAROLINA'S DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES INFORMED US ON AUGUST 9 OF THE LATEST OF LONG SERIES OF MEETINGS HE HAS HELD WITH PRC OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT OF A NORTH CAROLINA STATE TRADE MISSION TO THE PRC. HE HAD MET WITH HUANG WEN-CHUN AT THE PRCLO ON AUGUST 8. MCCOWEN, WHO HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT, HAD HOPED THAT, AS A MINIMUM, PRCLO WOULD REACT FAVORABLY TO A PROPOSAL THAT HE (MCCOWEN) AND/OR GOVERNOR HOLSHOUSER WOULD BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL TO PEKING TO DISCUSS THE TRADE MISSION IDEA DIRECTLY WITH PRC TRADE OFFICIALS. MCCOWEN SAID HUANG WAS COOL TO THIS IDEA, HOWEVER, AND WENT ON TO OFFER MCCOWEN HIS EXTENSIVE "PERSONAL OPINIONS" WHICH HE EXPRESSED "FRANKLY" IN VIEW OF MCCOWEN'S LONG EFFORTS: (A) THAT STATE DELEGATIONS WERE NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION; (B) THAT AFTER DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION HUANG FIRST EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE A FEDERAL LEVELELEGATION; (C) ONLY AFTER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS TO THAT
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STAGE COULD STATE DELEGATIONS EXPECT AN INVITATION;

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(D) HOWEVER, PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND INDUSTRY DELEGATIONS COULD MAKE CONTACT WITH PRC TRADING AUTHORITIES REGARDING SPECIFIC BUSINESS PROPOSALS.

2. HUANG ALSO STATED FACT THAT GOVERNOR HOLSHOUSER A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND MCCOWEN A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WOULD GIVE PROBLEMS IN APPROVING PRELIMINARY TRIP TO PEKING, AND HE ALLUDED TO POSSIBLE AVALANCHE OF SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER STATES AND INDUSTRIAL TRADE ORGANIZATIONS.

3. IN MORE POSITIVE VEIN, HUANG SPECIFIED FOUR AREAS OF POSSIBLE PRC INTEREST IN NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTS: NYLON YARN, POLYESTER YARN, NYLON TIRE CORD, POLYESTER STAPLE FOR TEXTILES.

4. MCCOWEN INDICATED HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND SURVEY NORTH CAROLINA MANUFACTURERS OF THESE PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, HE WAS OBVIOUSLY DISCOURAGED BY RESULTS OF MEETING WITH HUANG AND WILL RECOMMEND TO GOVERNOR HOLSHOUSER THAT NO FURTHER EFFORTS BE MADE ON TRADE MISSION IDEA. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE161328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WGMETSON/PTLINCOLN,JR.:EBS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730836/aaaabaiz.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TRADE MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, CH
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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